

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of esters and isomerized olefins having a cyclic structure.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) The ~~method-drilling fluid of claim 1~~ claim 4 wherein said ~~internal~~ olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
7. (Currently amended) The ~~method-drilling fluid of claim 1~~ claim 4 wherein said esters comprise about 5 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
8. (Currently amended) ~~A method for preparing a~~ The drilling fluid of claim 4, ~~comprising an invert emulsion, said method comprising blending esters with internal olefins to form the emulsion base or continuous phase, wherein the esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols and wherein the internal olefins each comprise about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms and are selected from the group consisting of branched internal olefins, poly branched internal olefins, and mixtures thereof, and no linear alpha olefins, and wherein the blending is done before the emulsion is formed and before any other materials or compounds are added to the drilling fluid.~~
9. (Currently amended) The ~~method-drilling fluid of claim 8~~ claim 4 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and alcohol.
10. (Currently amended) The ~~method-drilling fluid of claim 8~~ claim 4 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.

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11. (Currently amended) The ~~method-drilling fluid~~ of ~~claim 8~~ claim 4 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
12. — 89. (Canceled)